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ISU #23

4. The automobile battalion assigned to ISU #23 was understrength. [redacted] the T/O [redacted]

[redacted] called for 500 officers and EM, but the actual strength was 10 officers, about 12 NCOs, and 110 Pvs. Soldiers in the automobile battalion appeared to be in the 20 to 25 years age group. [redacted] of the officer personnel in ISU #23, about 50% were regular Army and 50% were reserves. [redacted]

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Leave

5. According to regulations Soviet officers in the Soviet Zone of Germany were entitled to 45 days annual leave and up to 20 days travel time, depending on the distance to be traveled. Eight percent of the officers in a unit were entitled to be on leave at the same time, but in reality leaves were hard to get. [redacted] complaints from various officers that their leave requests were turned down because their CO had no replacements to carry on their work during their leave. Officers and civilians could take their leave in the USSR or in leave centers operated by the Soviet Army in the Soviet Zone. [redacted]

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Reserve Officers

6. [redacted] many demobilized reserve officers were recalled in the spring of 1951 in Astrakhan. These were political, technical (engineers, signal, transportation), and armored officers, and pilots for the air force. [redacted] reserve officers were recalled for a five-year period. [redacted] the age of recalled reserve officers [redacted] to be between 25 and 40.

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[redacted] in the fall of 1950 demobilized naval line officers and naval pilots were recalled to active duty. It was rumored in Astrakhan that many recalled reserve army, navy, and air force officers were sent to Korea. Jokes were told about Korean pilots named Lee-Sikh-Ka (a Russian word meaning "fox" - used as a pun to imitate Korean names), Korean pilots cursing in customary Russian phrases, etc.

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7. [redacted] decorations in a journal Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta SSR - (Journal of the Supreme Soviet of the SSR - a Journal not for sale, but circulated among officials and engineer personnel), [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- [redacted] These were combat decorations for a large group of naval officers and sailors, "for carrying out special orders of the USSR". Some of these awards were posthumous and [redacted] the recipients of these combat decorations, especially those who died, had served in Korea, because no combat decorations were announced between 1946 and 1949. Furthermore, decorations for service in WW II cited "in the great war for the Fatherland" and not "for carrying out of special orders of the USSR". 50X1-HUM

Labor Service

8. In peacetime the Council of Ministers issued orders to the Rayvoyenkomats concerning deferments for individuals employed in certain professions and trades, in order to maintain a sufficient number of personnel for labor service. All factory school graduates were eventually drafted into the Army [redacted] 50X1-HUM
9. All females, except sick women, mothers of small children, and women of the upper classes, were called for labor service. [redacted] do not know if work on the kolkhozy was classified as labor service or if female kolkhoz employees were exempt from labor service. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
10. Until April 1951 Soviet civilians assigned to the Soviet Zone of Germany were hired for a two-year term. After that date Soviet civilians were hired for a three-year period. As a rule, after completion of the contract, the civilians returned to the USSR. If they wished to return to the Soviet Zone of Germany, they had to be rehired and reassigned to the zone. There were very few extensions of contracts.
11. During their assignment in the Soviet Zone, civilian employees were entitled to 24 work-days' annual leave. If leave were taken in the USSR, travel time was authorized. Civilians received pay for leave and travel time. However, many department heads refused to give civilian employees leave, claiming that no one was on hand to replace them. All leaves for civilians had to be approved by GOFG. Frequently a Soviet civilian hired for two or three years, requesting leave after one year, was not permitted to return to the Soviet Zone of Germany at the termination of his leave. The civilian would apply for a leave, and without his knowledge the CI or political officer in his unit would mark his application "Applicant is suspected of fraternization" or "not of good political reliability"; then, to the surprise and consternation of the leave applicant, he was granted his leave, but told to take all his belongings with him, as no visa would be given to him to return to his job in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

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**Military Districts**

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13. [redacted] there were more military districts than the ones  
[redacted] above [redacted] Veronezh  
was in the Don Military District [redacted]  
[redacted]

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